



# NEWS RELEASE

## OFFICE OF THE STATE'S ATTORNEY FOR HOWARD COUNTY

**For Immediate Release:**

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### **Laurel Man Sentenced for 2016 Negligent Manslaughter Auto Accident**

A Howard County judge has sentenced a Laurel man to eight years in prison for the negligent manslaughter of a Gaithersburg man as a result of a three-car collision on I-95 last summer. Caleb Aaron Wright, 28, formerly of the 8200 block of Mary Lee Lane, pleaded guilty to negligent manslaughter by auto vehicle last February and was sentenced yesterday.

Shortly before 3 a.m. on July 24, 2016, Jose Santos Gomez, 68, drove his car onto the shoulder of northbound I-95, just north of the MD Rt. 175 interchange. He and one of his two passengers were retrieving a phone charger from the trunk when Wright's car struck Gomez' car and both men. Maryland State Police investigators determined that Wright's Acura TL was traveling at 82 mph and continued almost 300 feet north of the initial impact when it was hit by a minivan. Gomez was unconscious and suffering from extensive trauma to his torso and lower extremities. He was transported to the University of Maryland Shock Trauma Center where he was pronounced dead.

Wright failed a field sobriety test and was placed under arrest and transported to Howard County General Hospital, complaining of injuries, where a blood alcohol test registered a .12. The legal limit is .08.

At yesterday's hearing, Wright apologized to Gomez's wife and two of Gomez's four children who were present in the courtroom. Judge Timothy J. McCrone sentenced Wright to ten years in prison, suspending all but eight years. He imposed five years of supervised probation upon Wright's release, ordered him to undergo alcohol and drug evaluation, testing and treatment, to attend three self-help meetings weekly and perform 300 hours of community service. The judge also sentenced Wright to a concurrent sentence of four years and nine months for violating his probation on an unrelated 2014 conviction on conspiracy to distribute a controlled dangerous substance.

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